



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington D.C. 20250

JAN 31 2007

The Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor
State of California
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

This is in response to your letters of January 22, 2007, January 24, 2007, and January 26, 2007; requesting disaster designations for 18 California counties due to extremely low temperatures and freezing conditions that occurred during the period January 6, 2007, through January 19, 2007. Those counties are:

El Dorado	Madera	San Bernardino	Tulare
Fresno	Merced	San Luis Obispo	Yolo
Glenn	Monterey	Santa Barbara	Yuba
Imperial	Riverside	Stanislaus	
Keen	Sacramento	Sutter	

The Department of Agriculture (USDA) has reviewed the Damage Assessment Reports, along with additional information submitted by the State Executive Director, Farm Service Agency (FSA). Based on this review, USDA has determined that there were sufficient production losses to warrant a Secretarial natural disaster designation. Therefore, I am designating all 18 counties named above as primary natural disaster areas.

In accordance with section 321(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, additional areas of your State are named as contiguous disaster counties. Those counties are:

Alameda	Kings	Orange	Sierra
Alpine	Lake	Placer	Solano
Amador	Los Angeles	Plumas	Tehama
Butte	Mariposa	San Benito	Tuolumne
Calaveras	Mendocino	San Diego	Ventura
Colusa	Mono	San Joaquin	
Contra Costa	Napa	Santa Clara	
Inyo	Nevada	Santa Cruz	

The Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger
Page 2

This designation makes farm operators in both primary and contiguous counties eligible to be considered for low-interest emergency loans from FSA, provided eligibility requirements are met. FSA will consider each application on its own merit by taking into account the extent of losses, security available, and repayment ability.

Local FSA offices can provide affected farmers with further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Johanns". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M" and a long, sweeping underline.

Mike Johanns
Secretary